(d) whether it is also a fact that salaries of these employees are not being paid regularly; and

(e) whether they are being deprived of fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) The question of grant of permanent status to some of the Mage Extra-mural Projects set up by ICMR including NNMB, Nagpur and regularisation of employees working under them has been receiving attention of the Government. To examine the issue a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Harcharan Singh was set up by the ICMR. The recommendations made by the Committee were considered by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Council and consequently to the decision by the SAB, these were further examined by Dr. Ruderappa Sub-Committee. A decision on the recommendations of the Dr. Ruderappa Sub-Committee will be taken by the Government on receipt of views of the Governing Body.

(d) No.

(e) The proposal received from ICMR for granting revised pay scales/consolidated salary to the employees of extramural projects of MCMR is receiving the attention of the Government.

Teaching of Leprosy in Medical Colleges

519. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate attention is not being paid in madical colleges in India for teaching leprosy as a result of which in many cases doctors fail to detect the early signs of this disease in many cases;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to focus special attention on this disease in medical education in the country; and

(c) the steps taken to generate sufficient awareness in the country about leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) It is not true that adequate attention is not paid in medical colleges towards teaching leprosy to M.B.B.S. students.

In the syllabus for Dermatology and Sexaully Transmitted Disease as provided in the Graduate Medical Education Regulation, 1997, Leprology is included and the skills that students should acquire, inter-alia, includes examination and treatment of leprosy patients.

(c) Raising the level of awareness in the Public about leprosy is one of the components of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. The NLEP staff in the districts conduct health education activities as a part of their regular work for the patients, their families and the community. General health care staff are also involved in creating and raising the level of awareness about leprosy. The State Government/UTs have also conducted campaigns to create mass awareness concerning leprosy by actively involving all visual and print media, folk music, dance troops, meetings, rallies, printed materials, hoardings, handbills, etc.

Efforts to Make an AIDS Vaccine

520. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is forgoing ahead in its afforts to make an AIDS vaccine;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the endeavours made to stop further spread of the disease in the country?